

**Response Under 37 CFR 1.116
Expedited Procedure
Examining Group 1700
Application No. 10/001,573
Paper Dated September 9, 2004
Attorney Docket No. 128346.31801**

Amendment to the Claims

Listing of Claims

This listing of claims shall replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for improving the toughness of a CBN product made by a high temperature/high pressure (HP/HT) process, which comprises the steps of:

forming a blend of an oxygen getter and CBN product-forming feedstock, wherein the oxygen getter is selected from the group consisting of titanium, aluminum, silicon and mixtures thereof; and

subjecting said blend to a CBN high temperature/high pressure (HP/HT) process for forming a CBN product, wherein said HP/HT process is conducted in the presence of a catalyst;

wherein the amount of oxygen getter in said blend is sufficient to improve the toughness of said CBN product and wherein the amount of oxygen getter in the blend is between about 0.005 and 0.5 wt %; and

wherein the CBN product has an oxygen content of less than about 300 ppm.

2-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said HP/HT process is conducted in the presence of a catalyst devoid of oxygen content.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said oxygen getter is removed from said CBN product.

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12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) A CBN product formed by the a process of claim 1 comprising:

~~forming a blend of an oxygen getter and a CBN product-forming feedstock;~~
and

~~subjecting the blend to a high temperature/high pressure (HP/HT) process to form a CBN product; and~~

~~wherein the CBN product has an oxygen content of less than about 300 ppm.~~

16-22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently Amended) A method for improving the toughness of a CBN product made by a high temperature/high pressure (HP/HT) process, which comprises the steps of:

forming a blend of an oxygen getter and a CBN product-forming feedstock, wherein the oxygen getter comprises titanium; and

subjecting said blend to a CBN high temperature/high pressure (HP/HT) process for forming a CBN product, wherein said HP/HT process is conducted in the presence of a catalyst;

wherein the amount of oxygen getter in said blend is sufficient to improve the toughness of said CBN product and wherein the amount of oxygen getter in the blend is between about 0.005 and 0.5 wt %; and

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wherein the CBN product has an oxygen content of less than about 300 ppm.

24-27. (Cancelled)

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the HP/HT process is conducted in the presence of a catalyst devoid of oxygen content.